

DANE COUNTY SUPPORTS WISCONSIN'S "25 X 25" GOAL FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Dane County government operations have a history of energy conservation and alternative energy use. For example, the county has installed energy-efficient lighting in its facilities; built the courthouse to meet LEED standards; and will implement a geothermal heating and cooling system, solar hot water, and a green roof in the new Badger Prairie Health Care Center which is currently being designed. In addition, the county has invested in alternative fuel vehicles and has built bike and pedestrian trails to encourage pollution-free transportation and recreation.

In 2009, Dane County will reach the goal of using alternative energy for 10 percent of total electrical use. The county will accomplish this through the efforts of the Dane County Regional Airport which is purchasing a significant portion of its electricity from wind energy, as well as the Department of Administration initiative to install solar hot water heat in the City-County Building. Additionally, the county has long used the methane gas from the landfill to generate electricity.

Dane County has also taken steps to embrace sustainability. During 2008 several department directors and County Board supervisors participated in The Natural Step training to learn how to incorporate sustainable practices in the county's work. Training opportunities will continue in 2009, and the county has established a "green energy/green jobs project fund" to implement initiatives.

In addition to addressing energy use for county operations, Dane County has initiated projects to encourage community-wide action. For example, the 2009 budget includes a study of the feasibility of locating wind or other renewable energy sources in Dane County. These sorts of projects could help to foster energy independence throughout the county.

These are but a few of the many efforts underway to reduce Dane County's dependence on fossil fuels and reduce pollution. While the county has made considerable efforts to curbs its energy use, it does not currently have a plan in place to prioritize new initiatives or to measure the effects of current approaches.

The Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence was formed to advance energy independence in the state, with a vision of generating 25 percent of the state's electricity and transportation fuels from renewable resources by 2025, capturing 10 percent of the emerging bio-industry and renewable energy market by 2030, and leading the nation in research to make energy more affordable and create jobs. To support this vision, the Office of Energy Independence is seeking partnerships with communities to help them gather data regarding local energy usage and develop local "25 x 25" plans.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby declares itself a partner with the State of Wisconsin in pursuit of the "25 x 25" goals for energy independence.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports long-range planning and policies to reduce the county's own dependence on fossil fuels.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Doyle, and to the Office of Energy Independence.

***Adopted by the Dane County Board of Supervisors January 22, 2009.***

***Signed by the Dane County Executive January 29, 2009.***